

SUMMARY

Students are given a question on a piece of paper. The question is multiple choice, but they must explain their reasoning. They write their response and explanation of their ideas on the paper. *They do not write their names on the paper.* The students crumple their papers into a ball and toss them back and forth to each other until told to stop by the teacher. The students then share with the class *only* what is written on the piece of paper they ended up with. After all of the responses have been read and discussed, the students can decide if they should stick with their original idea, modify or completely change their ideas. The class then decides together what answer is correct.

BENEFITS

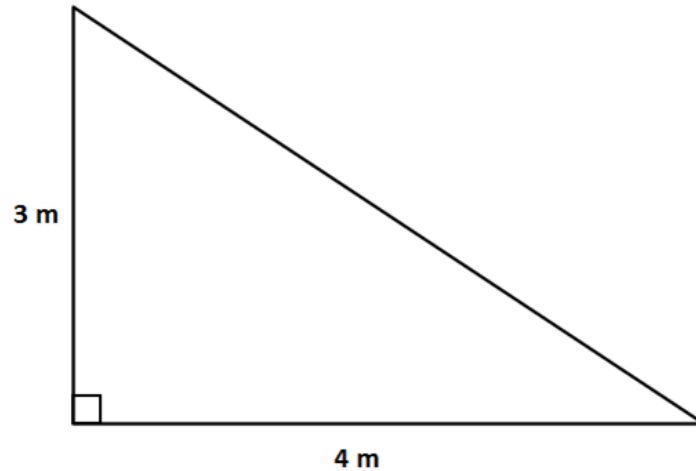
- Students have time to think about and record their responses, encouraging them to explain their ideas as best as they can.
- This activity can be used to lead a class discussion, engage students in deciding which ideas they believe are most plausible, and providing a clear justification for their thinking.
- Students are developing the ability to see other students' perspective.
- Students can take risks without fear of embarrassment if they have the wrong answer.

LIMITATIONS

- This technique is fun and engaging but if overused, it can lose its effectiveness.
- Students might not honour anonymity if they recognize a peer's handwriting.
- Students might use belittling comments about the student paper they end up with.

EXAMPLE

Example Question for Commit and Toss



The length of the hypotenuse of this triangle is:

- a) 5 m
- b) 7 m
- c) 8 m
- d) 10 m

Explain your reasoning: